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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Mobilization Tests

1. Since February 1952, there have been two mobilization tests in Bulgaria. The first affected all Army officers and the second affected only reserve officers.¹
2. The tests had the following purposes:
 - a. To ascertain the efficiency of Soviet staff methods as applied by the Bulgarian War Office;
 - b. To test the training and ability of the staff personnel in charge of the mobilization;
 - c. To train reserve officers to be alert and ready for any call;
 - d. To control reserve officers' cards; and
 - e. To train reserve officers in the use of Soviet materiel with which the Bulgarian Army is now equipped.
3. The tests were conducted in strict secrecy. Officers were ordered to duty by secret personal calls and were warned that demotion or deportation would result from revealing any facts concerning the mobilization.
4. Officers recalled for the training period were sent to units other than those to which they had been assigned originally.
5. At different times in different parts of the country, both regular and reserve officers are undergoing refresher training for 10-day periods. At the classes,

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Soviet experts and higher Bulgarian officers demonstrate the new Soviet equipment with which most units on active duty (except tank units) are now almost wholly equipped.²

6. New tubes of vaccine have arrived from the USSR and a medical mobilization is now anticipated.

Military Equipment

7. The Bulgarian Army does not yet have enough Soviet tanks for all units, making it necessary to pass Soviet tanks from unit to unit for training purposes.³
8. The German tanks which are now being replaced by T-34 and other Soviet armored equipment, as well as all Zeiss optical equipment, are being sent to the USSR.
9. The Soviet antiaircraft guns are better than the German antiaircraft models formerly used by the Bulgarian Army; however, the Bulgarians, and sometimes even Soviet officers, have difficulty with the optical apparatus and timing devices on the Soviet guns. The new heavy antiaircraft gun is set on a pivoted platform and carried on a special tracked vehicle.

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